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They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded soldiers. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that he was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for someone to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light, he found for a certainty that it was his brother.

After the battle a young woman was observed going among the dead looking intently into the faces of each dead Confederate soldier. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George". She was the guest at the home of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davisson of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Colonel Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordinance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said, "Damned if I know". Sisler said that he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the team of General Echols' ordinance

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wagon became frightened, and whittled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after, the war, people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Hamilton Riggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for the story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain, he passed to a section so rough that he had dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said, "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

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Prior to the Battle of Droop Mountain there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley, which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, a distance of about one hundred seventy miles, and which protected Virginia from attacks from the west. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate forces, General Averell was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia, to Lewisburg and it was while on the march that he met the enemy

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at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought on the 6th day of November, 1863, between the forces commanded by General Averell, and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colones William L. Jackson.

At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on Nov. 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General WM. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th, by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force at Mill Point on the morning of the 5th, and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th W. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft., and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road six and one-half miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if this battlefield governing nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven

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thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been, if the land had been cleared. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Virginia Inft. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va. Colonel \_\_\_\_\_ commanding, Kessler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Infantry. Some of these units have been twice named because as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left.

The forces engaged in the battle were composed of twelve Confederate units regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principal fighting was reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 300, and Major Kessler's battalion and other units composed a very elegant fighting force. These units were con-